ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Disclosed is a method of preparing a negative electrode for a rechargeable lithium battery. The steps include vacuum-drying a negative electrode precursor, the negative electrode precursor comprising a negative active material and an aqueous binder. The steps may further include vacuum-drying a lithium cell battery that includes a vacuum-dried negative electrode.

CLS PAS547698.1-*-01/28/04 3:21 PM

5